



**T**he aftermath of ice and wind has left a large part of Missouri with an accumulation of vegetative debris which is drying out and causing a wildfire hazard.

**T**o eliminate this debris, learn to burn safely or consider alternatives to burning. Protect your home and neighborhood by proper disposal of debris in a timely manner.

# Safe Debris Burning Tips

- Before burning, contact local agencies to determine if burn regulations are in effect.
- Know your weather conditions. Avoid burning on dry, windy days.
- Burn before 10:00 am or after 3:00 pm.
- Burn piles in open fields after the grass has greened up.
- Avoid building debris piles under overhanging tree limbs, power lines, or close to homes or other structures.
- Cover debris piles with a sheet of plastic. When the surrounding vegetation is wet and you are ready to burn remove plastic and burn the piles. This reduces the chance of your fire spreading to surrounding vegetation.
- Make sure that your piles have no vegetation within ten feet on any side.
- Keep piles small. Suggested size is 5' x 5'. If you have more debris to burn, you can always add to the burn pile later as it burns down.
- Have a water source and shovel located near the pile in case your fire spreads to surrounding vegetation.
- Stay with your burn pile until it is completely extinguished. Drown with water and stir the ashes with a rake or shovel until you are certain that the fire is completely out.

## Remember: Fire safety is up to you.

A wildfire prevention message brought to you by the US Forest Service and Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division.



USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

